



## **H.Res. 866 – Honoring the brave men and women of the United States Coast Guard whose tireless work, dedication, and commitment to protecting the United States have led to the Coast Guard seizing over 350,000 pounds of cocaine at sea during 2007, far surpassing all of our previous records**

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### FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 866 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Howard Coble (R-NC) on December 11, 2007. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and was approved.

H.Res. 866 is expected to be considered by the House of Representatives on January, 22 2008.

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### BACKGROUND

The United States Coast Guard is the smallest of the seven armed services of the United States, and was established by Congress in 1915 upon the merging of the Revenue Cutter Service and the United States Lifesaving Service.

The Coast Guard's stated mission is to protect the public, the environment, and the United States economic and security interests in any maritime region in which those interests may be at risk, including international waters and America's coasts, ports, and inland waterways.

The Coast Guard has seized more than \$4.7 billion of cocaine in 2007, and over 2 million pounds of cocaine over the past 10 years through interagency teamwork and international cooperation efforts.

The legal basis for the Coast Guard is Title 14 of the United States Code, which states: "The Coast Guard as established January 28, 1915, shall be a military service and a branch of the armed forces of the United States at all times."

The Coast Guard later moved to the Department of Transportation in 1967, and on February 25, 2003 it became part of the Department of Homeland Security.

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### SUMMARY

H.Res. 866 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Honors the United States Coast Guard, with its proud 217 year legacy of maritime law enforcement and border protection, along with the brave men and women whose efforts clearly demonstrate the honor, respect, and devotion to duty that ensures America's parents can sleep soundly knowing the Coast Guard is on patrol.

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### STAFF CONTACT

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